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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1941

KENDAL :

TITUS WILSON AND SON, LTD., PRINTERS.

1942.



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Kendal.

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1941.

This report is issued in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health which stresses economy in the matter of paper and states that these reports should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the Public Health.

I am much indebted for the help that I have received from the County Medical Officers in carrying out immunization against Diphtheria and tend them my thanks.

Should you desire any further particulars, I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

1st June, 1942.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1941.

Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population
mid-1940 20,060

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate ..	214	112	102	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 11.6.
Illegitimate ..	19	8	11	
Birth Rate: England and Wales ..				14.2.
Still Births	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 16.06.
Deaths	245	117	128	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 12.2.

Death Rate, England and Wales .. 12.9.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis ..	Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes ..	Nil.	Nil.
Total	Nil.	Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales 2.23.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	53
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	53.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	52.6
Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales	59
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	35
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The largest number of deaths from any one cause were:—

Heart Disease	55
Cancer	35
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	31

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

In consequence of the increase of attendances, a second clinic was opened each week to meet the need of evacuees.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Number of times the centre has been open	100	
„ „ babies under 1 year attending	172	} 391
„ „ children 1-5 years attending	..	..	219
„ „ attendances of babies	1166	} 3013
„ „ „ children	..	..	1276
„ „ „ mothers	..	..	207
„ „ „ expectant mothers	..	..	306
„ „ „ post-natal mothers	..	..	58
Number of mothers admitted to Hospital under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act	24

SUMMARY OF NURSE METCALFE'S WORK:—

First visits to babies under 1 year	181	} 2866
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	1067
Visits to children 1-5 years	..	..	..	1249
First visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	50
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	94
Still Birth enquiries	..	..	..	5
Infant Death enquiries	..	..	..	8
Visits to Institutions	..	..	..	14
Attendance at Centre	..	..	..	95
„ „ Mothers' Clinic	..	..	..	8
„ „ Immunization Clinic	..	..	..	14
„ „ Orthopædic Clinic	..	..	..	2
„ „ Evacuations	..	..	..	2
„ „ Vitamin Issue	..	..	..	4
Lessons at Rose Cottage and Examinations	..	..	..	73

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There have been 13 deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Prematurity	Congenital Diseases	Pneumonia	Marasmus	Total
6	3	3	1	13

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY .

Under 1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
8	—	—	—	8	1	4	—	—	13

DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

There have been 40 mothers treated under this Scheme as follows:—

Extractions	..	..	..	..	..	261
Local Anaesthetics	..	..	..	..	..	16
General „	..	..	..	..	..	11
Dentures supplied	..	..	..	..	..	13
Other treatments	..	..	..	..	..	21
						—
						322
						—

VITAMIN DISTRIBUTION.

Issue of Cod Liver oil, and Blackcurrant preparations for children under 2 years of age was commenced during the last fortnight of the year; the demand for these has been good.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The total rainfall at Fisher Tarn was 41.09 inches.

Owing to the small rainfall some anxiety arose, but by keeping the pumps at Mints Feet working for nine months of the year, a sufficiency was obtained; from this source more than 70,000,000 gallons were obtained, enough for about 140 days. Chlorination of this supply was established and preparations for chlorinating the Fisher Tarn water is in progress.

Monthly bacteriological examinations of the public supplies have been made and these have been satisfactory.

There have been no extensions in Housing, Water Supplies or Sewerage and the system of Public Cleansing remains the same, but under the Defence Regulations 68 A.A. nine houses were made sufficiently fit for habitation and were granted temporary licences.

There has been no excessive amount of overcrowding owing to the influx of evacuees.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

119 samples were taken from producers and dealers who deliver milk in Kendal. Details of analyses of these are as follows:—

1. GOOD.

Samples complying with both tests 24 or 20%

2. MODERATE.

Samples complying with one test only	..	31 or 26%
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3. POOR.

Samples which complied with neither test	..	64 or 53%
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Compared with the figures of last year these results are less favourable.

MEAT.

At the Public Slaughterhouse the following animals were slaughtered:

Beasts	..	..	..	..	2907
Sheep	..	..	..	..	42,289
Pigs ..	..	..	..	..	864
Calves	..	..	..	..	3,247

In 1939 (when there was no control) 12,738 animals were slaughtered.

1940 was first year of control, during which year 29,063 animals were slaughtered. There is thus an increase of 20,244 on the 1941 figures as compared with 1940.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1936	971	3247	42289	864
Number inspected ..	1936	971	3247	42289	864
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	14	30	72	91	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	53	58	12	163	63
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	3.4%	9%	2.6%	0.6%	7.9%
TUBERCULOSIS. Whole carcasses condemned	16	52	1	—	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	161	305	2	—	168
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.1%	36.8%	.09%	—	—

978 beasts' livers and 2699 sheep's livers affected with distomatosis are not included in these figures.

CASUALTY ANIMALS.

The practice of sending in casualty animals for slaughter has been grossly abused by farmers especially with regard to cattle.

The majority of the carcasses condemned should have been sent to the "knackers" yard. In some instances it hardly seemed possible for such a collection of specimens to be presented for slaughter.

The attention of the Ministry of Food has been drawn to this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The following meat was deposited at the Public Abattoir for distribution, slaughter having taken place either at home or abroad.

(a) HOME KILLED.

Beasts	..	..	..	..	53
Sheep	..	..	..	..	671
Calves	..	..	..	..	18
Pigs ..	..	..	..	..	56
Pigs' heads ..	..	..	..	..	4202

Of these it was found necessary to reject certain portions of carcasses:—

For Tuberculosis	..	..	..	321
Other causes	..	..	..	27

(b) IMPORTED.

Beasts	..	..	..	..	8
Quarters of Beasts..	..	..	..	..	407
Sheep	..	..	..	..	20,003
Pigs ..	..	..	..	..	145
Pigs' heads ..	..	..	..	..	290
Bags of offals	..	..	..	..	346

Of these it was found necessary to reject:—4 pigs' heads and 338 lbs. trimmings from Pig heads.

A certain amount of food was condemned in shops or warehouses on account of decomposition or damage in transit.

ADULTERATION, ETC. & CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out by Mr. W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C., of Liverpool.

The County Council has delegated to the Borough the functions of procuring samples for analysis or examination.

121 samples of food were taken for analysis as detailed below:—

Article.	No. of Samples.	Result.	Remarks.
Milk	71	Genuine	Vendors warned. Legal Proceedings in 4 cases resulting in fines of:— £7. 10s. & £2. 2. costs " " " £2 and £1. 1s. costs. £2 and vendor struck off Register. Other Vendors warned.
"	5	Abnormal Composition	
"	4	Deficient in Fat	
"	15	Added water	
Bun Flour	1	Genuine.	Free from Preservative.
Coffee	3	"	
Cocoa	1	"	
Sandwich			
Paste	1	"	
Fish Cakes ..	1	"	
Black			
Puddings ..	4	"	
Cheese Powder	1	"	
Ground			
Cinnamon ..	1	"	
Oatmeal	1	"	
Pearl Barley ..	1	"	
Ice Cream ..	1	"	
"	1	"	
Oranjeast ..	1	"	Wheat flour containing a small quantity of onion flavouring. Article withdrawn from sale.
Onion Powder	1	Article falsely described	
Eggstead ..	1	Genuine.	Sweetened with Saccharin without proper notice being clearly indicated. Vendors warned and all other supplies labelled accordingly.
Lem-Lem ..	1	"	
Sweetened	1	Genuine, but incorrectly labelled	
Cake Flour			
Sweetened Custard powder	1	Genuine but incorrectly labelled	"

Article.	No. of Samples.	Result.	Remarks.
Egg Saving Powder ..	1	Genuine.	Contained Saccharin which was not indicated. Vendors warned Further sales amended accordingly.
Sweetule ..	1	Genuine, but incorrectly labelled	
Whiskey ..	1	Genuine.	Informal sample. Musty taste and odour. Strength and proof correct.

In the milks the highest fat content was 8.7 per cent and the highest non-fatty content was 9.65 per cent. The average percentage of milk fats and non-fatty solids in all milks (genuine and non-genuine) was 3.75 per cent and 8.58 per cent. respectively.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912.

	No. of samples examined for the presence of preservative.	No. of samples in which preservative was found
Milk ..	95	Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of notifiable diseases was again small.

Of the 20 cases of Scarlet Fever, five had contracted the disease outside the Area but the diagnosis was not made until after their arrival.

Only five cases of Diphtheria were reported; one of these had been immunised two years ago and the attack was a very mild one; one other case was a carrier; one case terminated fatally.

There were four cases of Enteric Fever, two of which had become infected outside the Area; one of these died.

Of infectious nerve conditions, there were five cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever and one of Encephalitis Lethargica, the latter of which died.

There were four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, three of which arose in one Institution.

Of the five cases of Pneumonia notified, two died.

The numbers of other diseases were Erysipelas six, one each of Relapsing Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 62 cases of Measles and 83 of Whooping Cough; the epidemic of Measles which occurred in the previous year was subsiding but there was a marked increase in Whooping Cough numbers and there was one fatal case of Measles. Of non-notifiable infectious diseases there were epidemics of Mumps and Chicken-pox.

The Isolation Hospital has also admitted cases of Scabies.

Modern Isolation Hospital accommodation is lacking.

Artificial Immunization against Diphtheria has been continued and A.P.T. is the prophylactic which has been used, 727 school children and 260 pre-school children have been treated.

A special hostel has been established at Hincaster House for evacuee problem children, not suitable for billeting in private houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.											Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65-
Scarlet Fever ..	21	—	—	—	4	2	10	2	1	1	1	—	—	19	—
Diphtheria ..	5	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	1
Enteric Fever ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	4	1
Pneumonia ...	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	2
Erysipelas ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	5	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Relapsing Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ..	62	—	4	9	12	5	29	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough ..	81	6	8	9	15	10	31	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	196	7	12	20	31	18	73	9	4	7	5	88	22	41	6

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	4	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	3	7	1	1	—	3	1	1
25	5	3	—	2	—	3	—	—
35	1	2	—	2	—	1	—	—
45	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	1
55	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	16	14	3	8	1	8	1	2

There were 30 pulmonary cases notified of which 15 had contracted the disease elsewhere but came to reside in the Area. Of non-pulmonary cases there were three each of glands and abdomen, 2 each of meninges and bones and one miliary, and one of these had been infected prior to coming into the District; of these deaths occurred in six pulmonary and four non-pulmonary cases.

